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1960/12/23

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *JCK* DATE *7/6/84* DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 ASSISTANT SECRETARY

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____ CONFIDENTIAL

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS *the Secretary*

DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐

RELEASE ☐ DENIED ☐ *part*

THROUGH *S/S*

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS *81-23,5*

FROM _____ FE - J. Graham Parsons *7-5-7*

EXCISE

DEC 23 1960

14623

SUBJECT : Recommended Position on Laos

ICC

is calling
 at his request at 11:00 a.m., December 23. I will accompany the Ambassador and G. Edward Reynolds, Assistant Political Officer of SEA, will take notes. While he has not indicated the particular aspect of the Lao situation in which he is interested it is quite possible that _____ is calling on instructions in a further effort to persuade the United States to accept the _____ view that the co-chairmen under the Geneva Agreement of 1954, the UK and the USSR, should be asked to review the situation in Laos and consider reconvening the Laos ICC.

On December 19, _____ called on John Steeves and presented a similar position. Mr. Steeves told _____ that the United States was unalterably opposed to having the Russians, who had recently demonstrated their aggressive intentions, to sit as judges or arbitrators in settling the problems in Laos. So far as the reconvening of the ICC was concerned, Mr. Steeves said that the US had an open mind although we considered this a matter for the Lao Government to decide. He did review for _____ the problems which the presence of the ICC had created previously, especially the Polish member. _____ felt that the Indians and Canadians, the other two of the three members of the ICC, could more than offset the baleful influence of the Polish member.

Recommendation

1. It is recommended that you inform _____ that the United States is dubious about the wisdom of reconvening the Geneva Conference because of the ample evidence that the USSR, one of the co-chairmen, has flagrantly violated the Geneva Agreements of 1954 (which it signed), by providing arms to the Kong Le and Pathet Lao forces.
2. With respect to the ICC it is recommended that you inform _____ that the United States will be guided by the _____ decision of the Lao Government. You may wish to point out in this connection that previous governments of all shades in Laos have been opposed to the return of the ICC since the Souvanna Phouma government requested its departure in 1956.

601.9111

This Document Must be Re-
 mitted to the RM/Control File

JAN 16 1961

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- 2 -

Broadening of the Lao Government

It is also quite possible that [] may wish to 3,5 request the United States to encourage the broadening of the Lao Government. This has been suggested already by the British and the French, although just what "broadening" means has not been spelled out. The present government is composed of all elements except the far left although it is dominated by southern leaders (Tab B).

Recommendation

It is recommended that, if [] does bring up this problem, 3,5 you indicate our interest in [] regarding this matter. If 3,5 the inclusion of Souvanna is suggested [] it is 3,5 recommended that you offer no objection although the United States considers that his influence should be offset by strong anti-Communist elements, and that his position should be a distinctly subordinate one.

Legality of the Boun Oum Government

The legality of the Boun Oum government has been questioned. We have been taking the view that we need not question its legality since it was formed pursuant to an act of the King in Royal Ordinance 282 of December 12 following a no confidence vote by the National Assembly in the previous government. We understand that the government formed pursuant to ordinance 282 was specifically approved by the King on December 14 in Royal Ordinance 283.

Recommendation

If [] brings up the question of the legality of the Lao Government it is recommended that you read to him the points made in Royal Ordinance 282 as given in Tab C.

Attachments:

- 3,5
- TAB B: Copy of Memo dated December 22, 1960 regarding
"Broadening of the Lao Government"
- TAB C: Text of Lao Royal Ordinance 282 dated December 12, 1960.

FE:SEA:GEReynolds:ejp

Clearances: SEA - Mr. Erickson
- Mr. Usher
- Mr. Anderson
- Mr. Steeves

FE